AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Please amend paragraph 114 as follows:

At some point prior to the detection step, described below, any target analyte nucleic acid present in the initial sample contacted with the array is labeled with a detectable label. Labeling can occur either prior to or following contact with the array. In other words, the nucleic acids present in the fluid sample contacted with the array may be labeled prior to or after contact, e.g., hybridization, with the array. In some embodiments, the sample nucleic acids (including the analyte target nucleotide sequence(s) if present in the sample) are directly labeled with a detectable label, wherein the label may be covalently or non-covalently attached to the nucleic acids of the sample. For example, the nucleic acids, including the target nucleotide sequence, may be labeled with biotin, exposed to hybridization conditions, wherein the labeled target nucleotide sequence binds to an avidin-label or an avidin-generating species. (Also see Example 1, *infra*). In an alternative embodiment, the target nucleotide sequence is indirectly labeled with a detectable label, wherein the label may be covalently or non-covalently attached to the target nucleotide sequence. For example, the label may be non-covalently attached to a linker group, which in turn is (i) covalently attached to the target nucleotide sequence, or (ii) comprises a sequence which is complementary to the target nucleotide sequence. In another example, the probes may be extended, after hybridization, using chain-extension technology or sandwich-assay technology to generate a detectable signal (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,200,314). Generally, such detectable labels include, but are not limited to, radioactive isotopes, fluorescers, chemiluminescers, enzymes, enzyme substrates, enzyme cofactors, enzyme inhibitors, dyes, metal ions, metal sols, ligands (e.g., biotin or haptens) and the like.

In the claims:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence of an analyte nucleic acid in a sample, said method comprising:

(a) providing a nucleic acid array comprising:

(i) at least one hybridization feature to which said analyte nucleic acid specifically binds under stringent hybridization conditions; and

(ii) at least one background feature;